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Home rule legislation sent to Boston

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Council President Todd McGee is now doing “double-duty” as he was sworn in as acting mayor of the city in addition to his position on the council.

On Tuesday night, he was back in his capacity as the council president as he worked with his colleague to pass a revised special legislation request.

The city will seek home rule legislation to bypass the city charter, which requires a special election for mayor to take place if the sitting mayor leaves offices more than six months before the regular election.

Mayor Alex Morse resigned last Friday, taking a job as town administrator in Provincetown on Cape Cod. Morse was not seeking re-election as mayor and was finishing up a four-year term when he selected for the job.

Due to the huge cost of holding elections along with the current challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city council did not want to have a special election to name a mayor just to hold another election in November. The

next person to become mayor will win a four-year term, the second in the city’s history since voters agreed to change the mayor’s term from two years to four years.

The home rule legislation received some language change recommendations from the acting solicitor and Rep. Patricia Duffy.

Acting Solicitor Crystal Barnes said there were some minor changes in the language, including the issue over having an acting mayor.

“The state was concerned that if we had an acting mayor sitting in the vacancy, then did we have a vacancy,” said Barnes. “We change it to allow for the acting mayor to serve in both capacities (councilor and mayor).”

One other important part of the language was the ability for the newly-elected mayor to be able to be sworn in and take the job immediately.

Under normal circumstances, the new mayor or re-elected mayor is sworn in at a ceremony along with city councilors and school committee members on the first Monday in January. Because of the need to get a new mayor

See RULE, page 9

Sullivan to make run for mayor

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – Though he still has not made a formal announcement, City Councilor Michael Sullivan will become the third person to run for mayor once he turns in his nomination papers.

Sullivan did not make a formal announcement about his candidacy, but did take nomination papers out from the city clerk’s office early this week.

Sullivan has established a committee and has begun fundraising, and only need the 250 signatures of registered voters in order to join the race for the open seat, the first time the seat has been open in 10 years.

Mayor Alex Morse has been mayor for the past nine-plus years and recently resigned to take a job across the state.

Since making the announcement has not running



Michael Sullivan



Rebecca Lisi



Devin Sheehan

for mayor again back in December, Councilor-At-Large Rebecca Lisi and School Committee Vice Chairman Devin Sheehan have both announced runs for the Room 1 office at city hall.

Further muddying the water in the race is Morse’s abrupt departure from the mayor’s seat to take a new job, leaving the mayor’s seat open for the remainder of the year.

Council President Todd McGee will be the acting mayor until home rule legislation is passed to bypass a special election. McGee then plans to hold a special meeting to appoint a city councilor as acting mayor until the November election.

Councilors have already discussed and believe that Lisi, and if he joins the race officially, Sullivan, should not serve as acting mayor. The belief among councilors is that

it would give that individual an unfair advantage.

McGee, under city charter, is acting mayor and was sworn in last Friday because the city council president is designated as acting mayor if the mayor leaves office or is otherwise unable to perform his duties for a period of time.

McGee, however, cited his full-time job and potential conflicts of interests as reasons he cannot serve in the capacity until November. As part of the home rule legislation filed by the city council, another city councilor can be voted on to serve as acting mayor until the election.

The winner of mayoral election in November would be sworn in immediately.

As of press time, no other city councilor is being has publicly volunteered to serve as acting mayor for McGee, but Councilor Joseph McGiverin is the only one with previous experience serving in that capacity.

The entrance of Sullivan into the mayor’s race also means there will be a primary election in September to narrow the field of mayoral candidates down to two. Another potential rumored candidate is former Morse speechwriter William Glidden. Sullivan is a three-term city councilor and holds an at-large seat like Lisi.

COVID-19 risk situation improving

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – It has taken several months, but Holyoke has now been out of the “red” for four consecutive weeks according to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts statistics.

Holyoke went into the red category, making it high-risk for COVID-19 spread in early October. The city was in the red for the third straight week on Oct. 22, and the city’s public schools were forced to close down fall sports. This shut down the remainder of seasons for boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball.

Additionally, it put further delays on Holyoke’s plans to return to in-person learning or consider re-opening city hall to the public.

Holyoke remained in the red zone into early November even though the Commonwealth changed its formula to reflect the different populations of small towns and larger cities.

The high-risk designation continued into the winter months, cause the Holyoke

Public School to cancelled abbreviated winter season and keeping other major venues in the city closed down.

As the vaccine rollout picked up, however, COVID-19 numbers finally began to decline in February, allowing Holyoke to return to moderate status in early March. After two consecutive weeks, Holyoke football and basketball was allowed to begin practice, and Holyoke had its first athletic contests in four months two weeks ago.

With minor rises in COVID-19 numbers due to the spreading variants of the virus, which spread at a higher rate than the original COVID-19 mutation that spread in the country, Holyoke has been able to stave off going into the high-risk category again.

Holyoke’s most recent standing with a daily case rate of 26.9 cases per 100,000 people during the past 14 days, a number lower than the previous report. The positive rate remained lower than four percent at 3.42.

According to the Commonwealth, Holyoke has had 4,904 total coronavirus cases

in the city.

Holyoke continues to be a “go-to” city for COVID-19 testing, with two mass testing sites available for walk-up, no-appointment tests.

There is a walk-up site at the War Memorial located 310 Appleton Street. The nearby parking lot can be used for parking and testing takes place right at the front door Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Holyoke Community College is also continuing to operation its test site in Lot H. It is a drive-up site and runs Monday, Westfield, Friday, and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Both testing sites are currently scheduled to run through June 30. Depending on the status of the vaccination effort, which has been ramping up throughout the state, Gov. Charlie Baker could extend the testing sites further.

The Health Department gives regular COVID-19 reports on the city’s website at www.holyoke.org

SPRING FOOTBALL



William Dumoulin competes in Holyoke’s first football game sine 2019. The Knights faced Minnechaug in the season opener last Friday. More photos are on page 7.

Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Schools awarded \$750,000 from Barr Foundation

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Schools (HPS) is excited to announce receipt of a \$750,000 grant award from the Barr Foundation to strengthen leadership development in the schools and district. HPS is partnering with Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay) and Veritas Prep for this initiative.

“We are grateful to the Barr Foundation for their generous support and partnership,” stated Holyoke Public Schools Acting Receiver/Superintendent Anthony Soto. “We are also excited to include Veritas Prep Holyoke and Veritas Prep Charter School in Springfield as part of this collaboration. It is a wonderful opportunity for leaders in the region to learn from each other, as well as from other leaders across the country through the work with Relay as our leadership development partner.”

Research shows that successful leadership plays a significant role in influencing student success. According to research funded by the Wallace Foundation, “Effective education leadership makes a difference in improving learning. It is second only to teaching among school-related factors in its impact



Dr. Tiffani Curtis, Chief of Schools (left), and Ms. Rebecca Thompson, principal of McMahon School (right) performing a facilities walk-through of McMahon School.

Submitted photo

on student learning.”

“This multi-year grant provides us the opportunity to engage in the intentional district and school-level work designed to grow our instructional leaders in ways that produce increased academic achievement results for students, all students,” stated Chief of Schools Dr.

Tiffani Curtis.

Nearly 50 school-based and central office staff members, including principals, assistant principals, deans, directors and coaches, will be trained. Through professional development and coaching, leaders will receive the tools, support and mentoring to hone their skills, enrich the

district’s culture and climate, and become more effective, impactful leaders for the years to come.

“As a principal who was born and raised in Holyoke and as a member of the steering committee, I am excited to work with Relay collaboratively to support our craft and build our leadership toolbox,” stated Sullivan School Principal Sacha Garcia-Mailloux. “HPS leaders are committed to high-quality education that is culturally responsive and equitable for each student in each school.”

Veritas Chief of Academics Ashley Martin shared, “Our teachers and students deserve powerful and effective leadership, and we are thrilled to collaborate with HPS and Relay to develop high impact leaders for our schools.”

“Every student deserves a high-quality education and school leadership plays a critical role in making that a reality,” said Kate Dobin, Senior Program Officer for Barr’s Education team. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with Holyoke Public Schools and Veritas Prep as they strengthen instructional leadership in ways that support the achievement of all learners.”

Easter event rescheduled

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Parks and Recreation cordially invites the Holyoke community to “Drive into Spring.” This event will take place on Saturday, April 3 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Community Field (off Cherry Street).

Wave to the Easter Bunny, Paw Patrol Characters, Nick’s Nest Hot Dog, Sparky from the Holyoke Fire

Department and more surprises.

Music provided by 413 Family Fitness. Collect an Easter gift bag for children 12 and under while supplies last. This event is free of charge. This event was rescheduled from March 28.

For more information visit our web site at www.holyoke.org or call the Parks and Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.

Aegis Group makes new hire

HOLYOKE – Dalkia Aegis, EDF Group, the leading provider of cogeneration technology in the Northeast, has hired Edward Machado as a business development manager to focus on offering combined heat and power (CHP) energy solutions to large-scale facilities throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and California. In his role, Machado will endeavor to acquire new commercial customers by educating them on the benefits of Dalkia Aegis’ sustainable energy solution and the cost- and energy-savings it can help them realize. In addition, he will offer consultation services from initial outreach through system installation.

Prior to joining Dalkia Aegis, Machado held positions within the commercial real estate industry and the pri-

vate equity, venture capital and financial services sectors, and brings with him transferrable and relevant skills.

“Edward’s more than two decades of experience focused on sales, marketing and business development functions makes him the perfect addition to our team,” said Lee Vardakas, president of Dalkia Aegis. “We expect his expertise will have a large and immediate impact on our company, and his dedication and attentiveness will benefit our customers.”

Machado emigrated to the United States at the age of nine, later receiving his bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais in his home country of Brazil. He and his family now reside in Stamford, Connecticut.

Equine center hosting fundraiser

HOLYOKE – The Therapeutic Equestrian Center (TEC), located in Holyoke, is hosting a virtual fundraising event featuring the 2021 Winnie Film Festival Tour. This film fest will feature exclusive world premier short documentary films that celebrate the healing powers of the horse.

Enjoy two hours of inspiring and heartwarming films anytime from 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9 until 10 p.m. on Sunday, April 11. A modest fee of \$25 is requested to register and you’ll be provided a link to stream to any smart device such as phones, tab-

lets, and TVs. Binge in one sitting or stretch the viewing out over the entire weekend – the choice is yours!

To register for this virtual event, please visit our website at tecriders.org.

We are proud and grateful to announce that Garry Rome Hyundai is our exclusive event sponsor.

TEC has been closed during the pandemic but hopes to open later this year. Proceeds from this event will help feed and care for our stable of horses and provide necessary materials needed for a safe reopening.

HPS to hold extended school-year program

HOLYOKE – The HPS Extended School Year Program will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 6 to Aug. 6, Monday to Thursday (except for the last day of the program which will be Friday, Aug. 6).

Families can register their students for the 2021 Extended School Year (ESY) program at enrollholyoke.com beginning on Monday, March 29 for all qualifying students! Register by June 1st to ensure transportation is in place for the first day of the program. Please note, while we are planning for in-person ESY services, the possibility of start/end date or time changes and the possibility of remote learning will be based on updated state guidance and social distancing guidelines. We

will update you as we receive more information on this. If you are unsure if your child qualifies for extended year services or which program they are recommended for, please check your child’s most current IEP and/or check with your child’s special education teacher or building team leader. Please reach out to Enrollment at enrollment@hps.holyoke.ma.us if you have any questions about the online registration process or Jill Hughes at jhughes@hps.holyoke.ma.us if you have any questions about extended year services. View our brochure for Extended School Year Brochure-English and Folleto del Año Escolar Extendido-Español for more information.

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HCC to host film and talk inspired by Chilean folk song April 7

HOLYOKE – The Latinx Studies department at Holyoke Community College will host a short film and live presentation by dancer Michelle Marroquin and musician Tony Silva on Wed., April 7 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Their film, *Volver a los 17* (“Return to 17”), was inspired by the iconic Chilean folk song of the same name by singer Violeta Parra, whose poetic lyrics speak to the longing, remembering and honoring of the tender age of 17, when love first bursts into bloom. In the film, Silva plays guitar as Marroquin’s dance leads viewers on an abstract journey of memory and loss and asks how the past has made us who we are.

Marroquin is a bicultural dance artist who has created interactive performances in the Pioneer Valley since 2014. Silva is a guitarist and composer, specializing in Rumba Flamenca and Latin American folk music.



A film presentation will be made by the Latinx Studies department on April 7.

Submitted photo

Since COVID -19 severely limited their ability to perform in person, the Easthampton-based husband and wife team shifted into making music/dance films under the name Dragon Circle Productions.

Volver is the third film they have co-created in the last six months.

During the April 7 Zoom event, Marroquin and Silva will share the film and present a brief retrospective of their work. The audience will have an opportunity to converse with one another, share responses, and participate in a discussion on the themes that inspired the film: exile, memory, loss, and identity.

The presentation is part of the HCC’s ongoing series of events highlighting Latinx artists and cultures and the college’s Latinx Studies program.

To register for the event, please go to: hcc.edu/volver

Food truck opens permanent location

HOLYOKE – After a successful launch of their food truck, Crave, last fall-

coming weeks.



While others have struggled through the pandemic, Crave is expanding and growing with the support of the community. The food truck is still open several days a week, and is looking to expand to other cities in the

Nicole Ortiz, the owner and chef, graduated from HCC’s culinary school in May of 2020, as well as EForAll Holyoke in March of 2020. She credits much of her recent success to both of these institutions.

Crave offers fresh and unique Caribbean flavors. Some of the menu offerings include tacos, rice bowls, mofongo and salads. There are

many vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options on the menu.



Send Us Your Photos!

TheSun@turley.com

HOLYOKE WATER WORKS Job Posting – March 29, 2021 to Deadline - April 9, 2021 Hoisting Equipment Operator One (1) Full Time Position

Position Summary: Operates hoisting equipment and performs duties associated with the maintenance and repair of the public water system.

Essential Functions: Operates backhoes, front-end loaders and other hoisting and maintenance equipment including dump trucks, pickup trucks, and skid steer loaders. Performs semi-skilled, manual labor for the maintenance, repair and improvement to the municipal water system. The functions above are normal for this position. Other duties may be required and assigned. The essential functions or duties listed above are intended only as examples of the types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

Duties:

1. Operates hoisting equipment such as backhoes, power shovels, trench digger, rollers and front-end loaders where the equipment meets the above definition and where a special license from the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety is required. Changes tires and batteries; services and makes minor adjustments to equipment.

2. Operates all departmental mechanical equipment including compressors, skid steer loaders, pumps, tampers and abrasive saws. Maintains tools and equipment and prepares reports and sheets for office processing.

3. Under general supervision of a Working Foreman, installs corporations stops, tapping sleeves, gate valves, water meters and fire hydrants, dry or under pressure, on water services/mains of all sizes and materials. Installs pipes of various sizes and materials, from service pipe to water mains, choosing and using one or more approved methods of excavation. Taps mains of any size, proficiently using any tapping equipment available. Repairs and maintains pipelines, gate valves, hydrants, altitude valves, and relief valves. Flushes hydrants and blow offs, disinfects newly installed water mains following specific or general procedures established by the Department.

4. Is an active member of the Emergency Duty Roster and responds to all emergency repairs and/or water main breaks as required by his supervisor and/or management staff.

Experience required: At least five (5) year paid experience operating backhoes, front-end loaders and/or other hoisting equipment.

Education, certification, licensure, or other similar requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent; Must possess a Massachusetts Hoisting License Class 2B, a valid Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Class B or Class A.

Supervision: On occasion supervises a small crew of employees and/or summer/seasonal employees as deemed necessary.

Job Environment: Fieldwork is performed outdoors with loud noise levels and exposure to variable weather conditions/hazards associated with utility construction. The workload is subject to seasonal and weather-related changes.

Physical Requirements:

1. Physical ability to operate hoisting, heavy motor equipment and other construction tools.
2. Tasks involve the regular and sustained performance of moderately physically demanding work, typically involving some combination of driving, climbing, digging, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and crawling, and which involves the lifting, carrying, pushing and/or pulling of moderately heavy objects and materials (up to 50 pounds) and occasionally heavier objects and materials (up to 100 pounds).

3. Requires the ability to coordinate hands and eyes in operating hoisting, heavy motor equipment and other construction tools.

4. Requires the manual dexterity to handle a variety of items, control knobs, buttons, switches, catches, tools, etc. Must have significant levels of eye/hand/foot coordination.

5. Must be adaptable to performing under stress when confronted with emergencies or tight deadlines.

6. Communications: Requires the ability to talk and hear.

7. Exercises some independent judgment on repair methods and replacement of parts; decisions subject to review while work is in progress. Tasks may require frequent exposure to adverse environmental conditions.

The physical demands described above are representative of those that must be met by an employee to perform the essential functions of this job successfully. Reasonable accommodation(s) if needed will be provided for the employee with the adequate strength, dexterity, coordination, and visual acuity in a manner that does not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of the employee or others in the workplace.

Other requirements: Must be able to pass an employment physical, drug screening, and criminal background check.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) status: Non-Exempt (hourly)

Employment Status & Hours: Regular Full Time, 40 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-3:00 PM

Pay rate: \$24.87 to \$26.71 per hour, paid weekly

Employee Benefits: Health, Dental, Retirement, Life Insurance, Sick, Vacation and Personal Time.

Reports to: General Foreman, Working Foreman WSMC and Working Foreman WSMM

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or by email @ manzij@holyoke.org

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Holyoke Water Works, 20 Commercial Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

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Pursuant to MGL Chapter 164, Sections 69B to 69F, applications for a cadet engineer scholarship will be received at the:

Office of the Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Department
99 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Deadline: May 14, 2021

(Applications will only be considered if received on or before the deadline).

Application forms may be obtained during regular business hours at the above address or from school guidance counselors. For further information, please contact the Office of the Manager, at 536-9313.

Applicants for the scholarship must be:

- 1) Residents of the City of Holyoke.
- 2) Graduates of a duly accredited senior secondary school (year 2021 or before).
- 3) Not less than seventeen (17) years old on their last birthday, nor more than twenty-five (25) years old.
- 4) Accepted for admission to, or already enrolled in, an accredited community college, college, or university having a course of study leading to a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering.



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www.hged.com

Poetry Corner

“Life Understood”

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Moments and memories,
And our values reflecting
In the windows of our sunshine.

Becoming more than part of me,
Nature-gorged and stung;
Hurting more than the human hurt
in moral gentleness,
Wise and romantic in a feast
Of sensual satire.

As color blossom in Noble nature.
All is everywhere, as the banquet
Waits for the tired tulips to
Spring from the Earth’s breast...
Wisdom before man and gladdened
In the bosom of Nature.

HE has risen...HE has risen...
Jesus has risen for your eternal life.
Wishing everyone a Happy, Holy Easter too
And may God bless all of your loves and you.



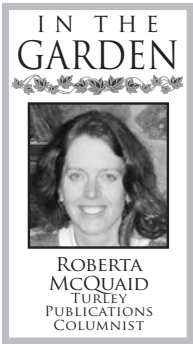
Guest Column

The truth about peanuts

Well, they certainly have a holiday for everything these days. Recently, when doing some research on an topic completely unrelated to horticulture, I learned that April 2 is National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. Now I enjoy a good PB & J sandwich, and PB & J stood for the initials Paul, (ro)Berta and Jen back in my college days, but really, a holiday? Regardless, let’s have some fun and take a look at half of this holiday fav from a horticulture perspective.

I had a childhood friend who actually grew peanuts here in the northeast. It was really neat to dig them up and eat them right from her garden! Who even knew they grew underground? I am dating myself when I say that all the hullabaloo was partly because we, at the time, had president by the name of Jimmy Carter whose family was in the business of growing peanuts. Why don’t you take a trip down Memory Lane with me as I look back on peanut culture, Ware-style!

If my memory serves me correctly, Mrs. Haley received fresh, raw peanuts still in their shell through a mail-order company. She carefully shelled them and planted them about a six inches apart from one another in her sunny garden after the danger of frost had passed. The key to growing peanuts is providing loose, crumbly soil. It’s interesting that



the plants flower above ground, but just as the petals of the flower fall away, stalks below the ovary of the flower called “pegs” lengthen, causing the stem to fall to the ground. When they fall, the pegs make their way into the soil and form the peanut. It’s suggested that once the plants reach about six inches tall, a gentle cultivation should be performed to make it easier for the pegs to penetrate the earth. After they have done so,

hilling as you would potatoes is beneficial, as is providing a loose mulch such as chopped leaves, straw or the like to keep the area friable and moist.

You’ll know it’s time to harvest when the plant yellows; don’t wait too long after this point or the peanuts may break from the plant, making harvest more difficult. Carefully unearth the whole plant with a shovel, shake away as much soil as you can and dry upside down out of the weather. An attic, barn or other well-ventilated area is ideal for this purpose. Peanuts can be shelled and enjoyed raw, or roasted in or out of the shell at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. High in protein and fat, and various healthy nutrients, peanuts are a staple in the diets of many cultures.

You many find it interesting to learn that peanuts are not really a nut at all, but a legume. In fact, young plants will be very

reminiscent of pea seedlings. They are thought to have originated in South America over three thousand years ago. Valued then as both a food source and status symbol, peanuts were even used as currency for a time. That’s humorous, considering the phrase “working for peanuts” implies quite the opposite status!

Peanuts are a long season crop, requiring about 120 days to mature. Many northern gardeners pre-start them indoors to get a jump on the growing season using a variety such as Early Spanish that matures earlier than other types.

Here’s what the experts recommend: Shell the fresh peanuts carefully, keeping the thin papery covering intact. Place three “seeds” in a four-inch pot filled two-thirds of the way up with moist potting soil. Add the remaining soil and place in a warm location until they sprout. Provide decent light and plant outside after the danger of frost has passed and proceeding as recommended above. Don’t over fertilize in either case or you will get lots of foliage and few peanuts.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Will inheritance money affect my Social Security?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I will turn 66 this year and am considering claiming my Social Security. I have already applied for Medicare. My parents passed on several years ago, and the estate will probably settle this year. I would like to know if my inheritance money will have any effect on my Social Security benefits. If so, how? Signed: Wondering Heir

Dear Wondering: No, your inheritance money from your parents’ estate will not affect your gross Social Security benefit in any way. Your monthly Social Security benefit is based solely on your lifetime earnings record from working, and income from other sources is not counted when computing your Social Security benefit amount. But if you claim your benefits and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your Social Security payment, it’s possible your inheritance could affect your Medicare Part B premium amount, thus lowering your net Social Security payment.

Most Medicare beneficiaries pay a standard premium of \$148.50 per month (2021

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

amount) for Part B, which is coverage for doctors and other outpatient services. But there is also a special provision known as “IRMAA” (Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount) which adds a supplemental amount to the standard Part B premium if your “provisional income” from all sources exceeds certain levels. Your “provisional income” would include income from all sources, including any money you receive from an inheritance, any tax-advantage investment withdrawals, tax-free interest, and half of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year. The name for this is your “Modified Adjusted Gross Income” (MAGI), and the clip levels which cause IRMAA to affect your Medicare premium are different depending on your IRS filing status.

If you file your income tax as “married/jointly” and your MAGI is over \$176,000, then IRMAA will apply and you’ll pay a higher Medicare premium thus reducing your net Social Security payment (if you file as a single, the clip level is \$88,000). IRMAA can cause your Part B premium to go to anywhere from \$208 to \$505 per month, depending upon how high your MAGI is. Note that your

Medicare premium for the current year is determined by your MAGI from two years prior, so if that inheritance money is reported on your 2021 income tax return, it would be your 2023 Medicare premium amount that would be affected. And the higher Medicare premium would self-adjust back to a lower level if MAGI for subsequent years are below the IRMAA level.

The other way your inheritance might affect you is through income taxes on your Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds \$32,000 filing as married/jointly (\$25,000 if single), then 50% of your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. Or if your MAGI is more than \$44,000 filing as married/jointly (\$34,000 if single), then up to 85% of your Social Security benefits for the tax year will become part of your taxable income at your standard IRS tax rate.

The bottom line is this: Your gross monthly Social Security benefit amount will not be affected by your inheritance, but if your inheritance increases your Medicare Part B premium your net SS benefit will be

See SECURITY, page 5



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A Quote

OF NOTE

“The Earth
laughs
in flowers.”

Ralph Waldo
Emerson



Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Saving the best – and worst – for last hike of winter

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

When Tom and I lost our minds and decided to attempt to climb all 48 New Hampshire 4,000-foot mountains in winter, the Zealand/Bonds traverse was the one that made me lose sleep at night.

How on Earth would we be able to pull off that little miracle? Not that we're "old" by any means – well, one of us isn't anyway – but this is the Bonds we're talking about! What kind of demented couple, one of whom is a senior citizen, decides it would be fun to hike 23.2 miles over five, 4,000-foot mountains in a single day in the dead of winter?! And more importantly – why?

Well, the answer is pretty obvious. We want to earn that cute little round patch that we get to sew onto our backpack once we complete them all. But in all seriousness, this crazy adventure has allowed Tom and I to move beyond our comfort zone and to challenge ourselves in ways we never dreamed possible.

So on the final Saturday of winter, we hiked what has been our most challenging hike so far – the Zealand/Bonds traverse. These mountains are in the heart of the 45,000-acre Pemigewasset Wilderness. The Bonds are among the most remote of the 4,000 footers, and as such, every trail that reaches their summits is a long and arduous one.

When we originally planned this hike, we envisioned sunny skies, temps in the 30s, minimal wind, and a solidly packed trail. What we actually encountered

was nothing of the sort. The forecast called for wind chill temps in the negative 20s and sustained winds in the 35 mph range with gusts up to 50 mph.

Tom and I know our limits regarding wind speed and temperature and as such; We're unwilling to take the risks that we were willing to take when we were younger. What can I say, it comes with age. Something called self-preservation.

We asked ourselves if it would be worth the potential suffering just to bag several peaks. After all, we began this quest to have fun and to challenge ourselves, not as a test to determine how much misery we could withstand. So we decided to go in spite of the wind chills predictions with the caveat that we would turn back if the conditions were too extreme to continue.

Snow was falling steadily and the wind was howling when we stepped out of our car near Zealand Road at 4:30 a.m. One of the drawbacks of winter hiking is that several of the mountains require a road walk just to get to the trailhead because some of the roads are not maintained in winter. On this particular hike, we needed to walk 3.7 miles on the road just to reach the trailhead.

We were able to wear microspikes on our feet for the road walk, but switched to snowshoes once we reached Zealand trail. The snow continued to fall, so we were forced to break trail through fresh snow that was anywhere between three inches to over a foot deep. Breaking trail is exhausting work, so Tom and I took turns taking the lead position.

Once we were above tree line, the combination of fresh snow and fierce wind erased all signs of the trail. We spent valuable time trying to find the

path that is usually very obvious on a summer day. Based on the less than ideal conditions, we began to wonder if we'd have the stamina to complete the entire traverse, or if we'd need to turn back after reaching Zealand Mountain – our first mountain of the day.

But alas, there is a God, because not only did the sun finally make an appearance, but about a half mile before we reached Zealand Mountain, two angels appeared from behind us – and they were wearing snowshoes! We stepped aside, enormously relieved to have someone in front of us breaking out the trail. We reached Mt. Zealand shortly after, then continued on.

The entire traverse is a blend of above treeline exposure intermixed with hiking in the shelter of the trees. When we reached the alpine zone on the shoulder of Mt. Guyot, we experienced the full onslaught of nature's fury as the wind roared all around us. I braced myself a few times with my trekking poles to avoid being knocked off balance. If the hike had required several miles of hiking above treeline, we couldn't have endured the strength of the wind, but knowing that we would periodically escape its wrath by hiking into the protection of the trees made it tolerable.

We hiked up West Bond next, followed by Mt. Bond. It was 3:30 p.m. when we reached Bondcliff – our final peak of the day. We had been hiking almost non-stop for the past 11 hours. As elated as we were to be standing on our final mountain of the day, we knew that we still had nine miles to go to get to our car. Thankfully, Bondcliff Trail was well packed out, so we were able to remove our heavy snowshoes and wear our spikes for the descent.

As we strapped our snowshoes onto our packs, I groaned under the added weight on my back. However, heavier packs mean lighter feet. Without heavy snowshoes on our feet, we practically flew down the mountain.

We arrived at the bridge that marks the end of the hike just as I was certain that I couldn't take one more step. My legs were propelling me forward only out of sheer necessity. We crossed the bridge that leads to the parking lot at 7:30 p.m. – 15 hours from the time we started.

We did it!

Twenty-three miles, five mountains, 15 hours. It's amazing what the mind and body can do when the heart leads the way.

Peace, and hike on!

Julie Midura is a resident of Ludlow.



Julie and Tom on the summit of Mt. Bond, their 44th winter ascent. Courtesy photo

Veteran tax program opens up

HOLYOKE – The Veteran Tax Work-Off Program is open to a veteran, as defined by MGL Ch. 4 § 7 clause 43, who owns property in and pays real estate taxes to the City of Holyoke. The program participant's name must appear on the property deed. The program year runs from July 1 to November 30. A \$1,500 property tax credit minus the required withholdings will be applied to the participant's real estate tax bill in the following fiscal year, not the current year's property tax bill. Applications for additional years will be available in November of each year.

Participants should work the required 111.1 hours* of service. Hours worked may not be shared with another family member. Each individual must fulfill the total hours of service obligation. However, the City of Holyoke, based on need, may place the participant in more than one (1) job in order to fulfill the total hours. Individuals will be credited for any hours worked even if the 111.1 hours are not fulfilled.

*To receive the maximum \$1,500 tax credit participants must work 111.1 hours. Working less than 111.1 hours results in a pro-rated tax credit based on the number of hours worked.

- \$13.50 per hour (as of Jan. 1, 2021)
- Participants will receive abatement for up to 111.1 hours of service. Any hours worked beyond the 117 hours can-

not be accumulated for the Tax Work-Off Program.

- Maximum amount of abatement is \$1,500 per person per fiscal year.

Job Placement for a Tax Credit Position

- Individuals will be chosen based on the best match between the applicant's qualifications and the skill requirements of each job
- Applicants will be interviewed by the department supervisor of the position for which they have been placed
- There will be a two (2) week probationary period to assess the appropriateness of the placement
- Program participants may not work for relatives who are City employees
- Eligible senior citizens who are veterans can elect to participate in either the veterans' or Senior citizens' tax work-off plans.
- Primary consideration will be given to first-time applicants. Individuals previously chosen for the program may make re-application in subsequent years. No applicant is guaranteed a position. A lottery system may be used if there are more applicants than available positions
- Timesheets will be filled out by the department supervisor on a weekly or monthly basis and submitted to the Veterans Services Director. A final accounting of time worked will be submitted to the Assessor.

and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

SECURITY, from page 4

temporarily lower. And the inheritance may also influence how much of your Social Security benefits are subjected to income tax.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained

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CLUES ACROSS	1563	2. Fast mammal	Samoa (abbr.)
1. Now and __	33. Savory jelly made with meat stock	3. Oh goodness!	35. Wrinkled dog: Shar
5. Israeli city __ Aviv	38. Journalist Tarbell	4. The back of one's neck	—
8. Indicates near	41. Most suspenseful	5. One who lives in another's property	36. Denotes equal
11. Minneapolis suburb	43. Festivity	6. Involve deeply	37. TV network for children
13. Large Australian flightless bird	45. Animal embryos	7. Alfalfa	39. Take the value away from
14. Fine-grained earth	48. Fertility god	8. Tropical tree resin	40. Female graduates
15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop	49. Medical patients' choice (abbr.)	9. Sudden fear	41. Don't know when yet
16. Peacock network	50. Type of sword	10. Jewish religious month	42. " __ tú": Spanish song
17. TV writer Dunham	55. Competition	12. Veterans battleground	44. "Seinfeld" character
18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues	56. Bird of the cuckoo family	14. Musical symbol	45. Bleated
20. They __	57. Afflicted in mind or body	19. German river	46. Entwined
21. Muslim ruler title	59. Engineering organization	23. Paddle	47. Away from wind
22. Position given in respect of	60. Beverage receptacle	24. Lizard	48. Soft creamy white cheese
25. Explaining further	61. Spiritual leader	26. The common gibbon	51. Swiss river
30. Measuring instrument	62. Doctor of Education	27. Brew	52. Prejudice
31. Romanian monetary unit	63. Where golfers begin	28. Usually has a lid	53. Actor Idris
32. Council of __, 1545-	64. Impudence	29. Lenses in optical instruments	54. They resist authority (slang)
	CLUES DOWN	34. Time zone in	58. Speak ill of
	1. Vietnamese offensive		

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

HCC plans virtual graduation, fall campus return

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is planning a virtual commencement for spring and preparing to welcome students, faculty and staff safely back to campus for the fall 2021 semester.

HCC’s 75th Anniversary Commencement will be livestreamed on Sat., June 5, on the HCC website and the college’s social media channels. (The college was founded in Sept. 1946 and will be recognizing the milestone throughout the year.)

The virtual commencement will celebrate the class of 2021 as well as the class of 2020. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, HCC made the decision last year to recognize the class of 2020 with a virtual celebration in August 2020 and also invite graduates to participate in a more traditional graduation ceremony this year along with the class of 2021.

Planning for Commencement begins months in advance, and HCC officials made their decision on this year’s ceremony based on conditions in February before new guidelines were announced allowing for limited outdoor and indoor ceremonies.

“Unlike the 2020 celebration, the 2021 ceremony will include traditional Commencement moments with an emphasis on the elements our students told us matter most to them,” said President Christina Royal. Those elements include having student orators from both classes, and keynote speeches delivered by the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Elaine Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence, HCC’s highest faculty award.

“We will also have a virtual procession and the traditional reading of names of graduates from both classes along with photographs submitted by members of each class,” Royal said.

In advance of Commencement, HCC will be inviting students to campus on May 6 and 7 to pick up their

caps and gowns, graduation gift boxes, and lawn signs celebrating their success. President Royal and members of the College Affairs committee will also be there to offer in-person, albeit socially distant, congratulations to the graduates and the opportunity to have their photos taken with the president.

Return to Campus

For the fall 2021 semester, which begins Tues., Sept. 7, HCC is offering a variety of class formats, including face-to-face, in-person, on-campus classes with a maximum of 10 students per classroom.

Following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the fall 2021 return-to-campus plan allows for maximum flexibility and adaptability, at all times prioritizing the safety and well-being of HCC students, faculty, and staff.

HCC will provide multiple course formats to suit different learning styles and personal preferences: on campus; blended on campus and remote; synchronous remote; and asynchronous online.

“HCC is paying particular attention to scheduling courses that will allow incoming students to maximize on-campus instruction if they so choose,” Royal said. “The plan provides us the flexibility to make adjustments as public health conditions evolve over the months ahead.”

In addition to on-campus, blended and remote offerings for Fall 2021, HCC will continue to offer a full slate of fully online courses across the curriculum. As much as possible, administration offices and student services will also be open and staffed, while maintaining safe and social-distancing protocols, including mandatory mask-wearing and Plexiglass screens in areas where students and members of the public most closely



Holyoke Community College is planning to have a return to in-person classes in the fall. Submitted photo

interact with staff.

While campus offices and support services will be open to students this fall, HCC will also continue to offer services and support through online chat and Zoom for students who feel more comfortable accessing college services remotely.

“I really believe the pandemic has made HCC a better version of itself,” said Royal. “We have enhanced our support for students, and have amplified student voices throughout every decision-making process – always placing students first. We have made equity a greater priority across the college, enabling us to truly and more deeply serve our community.”

Registration opens April 12 for summer and fall classes at HCC.

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HPS Summer Program registration begins

HOLYOKE – It may be March, but before you know it, summer will be here. That’s why it is never too early to plan for summer programming.

HPS Summer Learning Academies

The Summer Learning Academies program is being offered from July 6 to Aug. 5, Monday to Thursday. There will be in person and remote programming for all students. Please see the options below that are available for your child(ren):

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at E.N. White for all HPS students in rising 1-3,

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at E.N. White for all HPS dual language students in rising grades 1-3,

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McMahon for all HPS students in rising grades 4-5.

A remote program option is offered for all of these programs for the academic portion of the day from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Generation Teach Steam Academy

The Generation Teach program will take place Monday-Friday, June 28 to Aug. 6 as follows:

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holyoke STEM Academy for students in rising grades 6-8

Summer Acceleration Academy

The Summer Acceleration Academy program will take place Monday-Friday, Aug. 9 to 13 as follows:

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Morgan, Kelly and Sullivan for all HPS students in rising grades 3-5

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Holyoke High School North for all students in rising grades 9-12.

Students will be provided with breakfast, lunch and transportation (will be provided to students within district transportation guidelines). For more program information, visit our summer learning web page and view our flyer. Any clarifying questions, please contact extendedlearning@hps.holyoke.ma.us

Please register your student by Friday, June 4. Apply using the registration link: <https://www.enroll-holyoke.com/login>.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER.....**99¢** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE HAMS**\$1.44** lb

USDA INSP. 20 OZ. HUMMEL BROS EASTER KIELBASA . **\$4.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM **\$1.69** lb

USDA INSP. TRIPLE M BONELESS WHOLE SMOKED PIT HAM..... **\$3.47** lb

USDA INSP. HATFIELD SKINLESS & SHANKLESS WHOLE HAM **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 HAM PORTION BUTT OR SHANK..... **89¢** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF RIB EYE CUT FREE **\$6.99** lb WHOLE OR HALF

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS **\$3.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB LEGS **\$4.69** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$2.77** 7 LB BAG

USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEY **90¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN TRAY PAK BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN **\$1.44** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE ROASTER **69¢** lb

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Soccer alignments proposed for new tournament format

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Holyoke and Central will stand together as the only two schools from Western Massachusetts that will compete in Division 1 soccer under the new alignments that have been proposed.

This fall, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will change to a statewide tournament. In an attempt to equalize the competition, Massachusetts will move from four to five divisions in most major sports, such as soccer,

basketball, and baseball and softball.

According to the alignments that have been proposed, Holyoke and Central are the only schools in the region that have enough enrollment to be part of Division 1.

Many current Division 1 schools in the region will now move down to Division 2.

Among the Division 2 teams in soccer will be Agawam, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Minnechaug Regional, Amherst, and Ludlow. All of these teams

See *SOCCER*, page 8

Entry list growing as Icebreaker event nears

WATERBURY, Vt. – Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over three weeks away from opening the 2021 Northeast Auto Racing season with the annual Icebreaker. The headlining \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on Sunday, April 11 continues to draw buzz and big names as the entry list grows leading up to the event.

Nearly 30 Tour-type Modified teams have registered for the debut of the Outlaw Open Modified Series. Even more are expected by the time the first green flag falls for qualifying. The list includes former track and series champions, many multi-time winners, and rising stars looking to start the season with a bang.

To no one's surprise, a huge contingent of racers from the "Modified Country" of Southern New England have entered. Former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champions Doug Coby of Milford, CT; Bobby Santos III of Franklin, MA; and Ronnie Silk of Norwalk, CT are among the biggest

names preparing for the season-opener.

Other touring series champions on the entry list are Chelmsford, MA's Jon McKennedy; Moosup, CT's Chris Pasteryak; and Woborn, MA's Anthony Nocella. Although NASCAR Cup Series regular Ryan Preece has not officially entered the Icebreaker, he has publicly expressed his interest in competing.

Plenty of weekly Modified warriors are also ready for the long-distance challenge. They include Berlin, CT's Keith Rocco, a seven-time Thompson Speedway champion, and Tolland, CT's Ronnie Williams, a two-time SK Modified champion at Stafford Motor Speedway. With 125 green-flag laps on the card, many factors will play into who ultimately takes home the big check.

"I think you're going to see a lot of different strategies in this type of race," Williams said. "I think a lot of guys will be pushing hard in the

See *RACING*, page 8



The Icebreaker 125 is just a few weeks away and the entry list is piling up.
Submitted photos

Knights fall in opener



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

After having their fall season shut down and winter season cancelled, Holyoke High School returned with football action. The Knights fought hard, but fell 41-20 last Friday evening on the road. Holyoke is 0-1 in the Fall 2 season. Above, William Dumoulin takes off on a run. Right, Quinn Cauley winds back to pass the ball. Below, Dylan Lubold takes the handoff.



Wilbraham & Monson Academy basketball program expands

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham & Monson Academy’s Boys Basketball program is excited to announce an expansion of its New England Championship-winning Boys Basketball program - with a newly created and named Varsity basketball team. The Varsity team will begin the 2021-2022 season as a Class C Associate member of the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council.

Wilbraham & Monson’s current varsity team will be rebranded as a Prep

level team when it opens defense of its New England Class AA championship. The Titans won the program’s fifth New England Championship, and first in 34 years, in March 2020.

The varsity team will be run under the direction of Prep Head Coach Mike Mannix and will be coached by newly hired Chris Iversen.

Iversen’s basketball background includes extensive experience at numerous administrative levels in the Premier

Basketball League, an American professional men’s basketball minor league. He helped lead the Rochester (N.Y.) RazorSharks to seven league championships and was twice named as the league’s Coach of the Year. Iversen joins WMA after holding a position as an assistant coach and co-director of player development at the United States Basketball Academy in Eugene, Oregon.

WMA’s announcement follows its recent decision to reinstate ice hockey

to the school. The program will start as a club-level team for boys and girls for the 2021-2022 winter season. The Academy is finishing a full year of full-time, on-campus classes with socially distanced classrooms and dining halls. Students and the entire WMA community are COVID-19 tested twice a week.

To learn more about WMA’s boys varsity basketball program or any of the other Academy’s offerings, visit www.wma.us/varsity or www.wma.us.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.”

We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow

and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players who

are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league’s first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league’s website.

SOCCER, from page 7

have been playing in Division 1 for many years, and have competed in Division 1 tournaments at the regional and state level. Ludlow was a Division 1 state champion a couple of years ago.

Belchertown will be among the teams that will be featured in Division 3. This is not a change for those teams. They have been in Division 3 in recent years, though girls soccer has been playing Division 1 to improve its competition level. Belchertown won the boys Division 3 state championship in 2019.

South Hadley, which won a girls soccer Division 3 state title in 2019, will move to Division 4. Also included in Division 4 will be Mahar Regional.

Moving to the newly created Division 5 will be Palmer, Pathfinder, Monson, Granby, Ware, Quaboag, and North Brookfield.

In Central Mass., Tantasqua will be a part of Division 2, while Quabbin Regional will join Division 3.

The divisions the teams will be assigned will determine what state tournament that team will have an opportunity to be a part of. With the number of divisions increasing, there will be more opportunities for teams to qualify, though there could be a lot of excessive travel in the early rounds of the tournament depending on what part of the state a team comes from.

Teams will have an opportunity to appeal their divisional placement, whether it before enrollment or competition reasons.

What has yet to be determined is what a Western Massachusetts tournament may look like. While the MIAA will not sponsor a tournament going forward, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference wants to sponsor a tournament. It is unknown how the competition will be aligned, but it could be difficult to place the teams according to division, with situations like having just Holyoke and Central in Division 1. The PVIAC had to put planning for sectional tournaments on hold due to the pandemic.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25. Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother’s Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July with

the playoffs for the top four teams during the first two weeks of August. Tryouts are set for the first three weekends in April. Tryouts will be Saturday, April 3, Sunday, April 11, and Sunday, April 18, all weather-permitting. A draft for new players will be held after the final tryout. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.

Sign-ups available for Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled

32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

RACING, from page 7

early laps of the race. It’s the start of a new season, and a lot of guys haven’t raced yet. I’m expecting a strong run out there. The No. 25 with Gary Casella always runs well at Thompson.”

“You just have to play your cards right with all of the pit strategy and 125 laps that are all green flag laps,” Rocco added. “Fuel is probably going to play a role in it for this one, too. There are a lot of aspects that are going to be part of trying to win the race. We always do really well in the open shows, from the SK Modifieds to the Tour Modifieds. Hopefully, we’ll come out of the box strong to start the season.”

However, the hunger for victory isn’t just limited to Connecticut and Massachusetts. Racers from six different Northeast states already entered the Icebreaker 125, giving the event a regional flavor that speaks to its appeal among the Modified ranks.

New Hampshire racers Andy Shaw (Center Conway) and Trevor Bleau (Troy) live in an area typically dominated by Late Model-type cars. However, they’re ready to make Modifieds the Granite State headliner for at least one day. Riverhead, NY’s Eric Goodale is one of several drivers who are expected to do double-duty with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Virginia’s Martinsville Speedway. Goodale’s fellow Long Islander Artie Peterson III is also representing the Empire State.

Anthony Sesely is making the trip to Thompson from Port Monmouth, NJ. Earl Paules has an even long drive from Palmerton, PA. Patrick Emerling has the current “long haul” award, though, with a 432-mile journey each way from Orchard Park, NY to drive Ted Anderson’s #1CT.

The Icebreaker 125 is the first event in the new Outlaw Open Modified Series. A quartet of \$5,000-to-win Wednesday events are scheduled for June 16, July 7, August

11, and September 15. The season concludes with the return of the Thompson 300, a \$20,000-to-win event on October 9 and 10 as part of the annual World Series of Speedway Racing.

Drivers can still register for the Icebreaker 125. Outlaw Open Modified Series entry forms and rules are available at www.actour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. General event Information can be found at www.act-tour.com/thompson-speedway.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. A total of 10 divisions will compete across two days of racing. Sunday’s card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There’s also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds.

Saturday’s six-division card is highlighted by the season-opening Thompson 75 for the PASS North Super Late Models. They’re joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgets, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N’ Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happsnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ>. Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

For general Thompson Speedway inquires and camping reservations, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

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RULE, from page 1

in place, city councilors agreed they wanted the mayor elected in November to be able to take office immediately.

Barnes said the updated language now strongly shows that the person elected mayor in November will serve immediately until January, and then the ensuing four-year term.

Once the act is approved, the city council will hold a special meeting within 10 days to name one of its mem-

ber as acting mayor. McGee indicated he was not able to effectively serve as acting mayor for the remainder of the year.

Duffy did not give an exact timeline for how long it would take the legislature to push the act through.

“Everyone knows this is coming,” said Duffy. “The legislature and governor want to do what you want to do. It’s a sensible course of action. I don’t want to promise a date, but I am personally bringing the piece of paper to Boston.”

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROJECT: Whiting Street Reservoir Dam Improvements Project

LOCATION: Easthampton Road (Route 141), Holyoke, MA 01040

PROPOSER: Holyoke Water Works

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form (“ENF”) to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before March 31, 2021. This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”, M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from: Tighe & Bond, c/o Melissa Coady, 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085, Phone: (413) 250-2424. Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Holyoke where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By Holyoke Water Works
04/02/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0502EA
Estate of:
Robert M Quirk
Date of Death:
01/15/2021

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Kimberly Q Parlengas of East Sandwich, MA and Petitioner Karen M Flaro of Fairport, NY, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Kimberly Q Parlengas of East Sandwich, MA and Karen M Flaro of Fairport, NY has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and

expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
04/02/2021

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a Special Permit Application of EMB Natural Ventures LLC Marijuana Facilities-Cultivation for the establishment of a Marijuana facility for cultivation purposes at 140 Middle Water St (047-01-015). Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 837 0239 0719 Meeting Passcode: 631952 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair
Rebecca Lisi
03/26, 04/02/2021

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a Special Permit Application for Massbiology Technology, LLC to build & operate a marijuana cultivation & processing establishment at 6 Appleton St (048-01-003). Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 837 0239 0719 Meeting Passcode: 631952 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair
Rebecca Lisi
03/26, 04/02/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0574EA
Estate of:

Richard W Luce, Jr.
Also known as:
Richard W Luce
Date of Death: 09/03/2012

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Karin J Luce of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Karin J Luce of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/23/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS INFORMAL PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 26, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/02/2021

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hear a Special Permit Application for Marijuana Retail and Manufacturing Establishment of Green Highland LLC to build & operate a marijuana retail, cultivation and processing establishment at 26 Hadley Mills Rd (023-01-004). Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 837 0239 0719 Meeting Passcode: 631952 or by call in at 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode. Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair
Rebecca Lisi
03/26, 04/02/2021

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT 2021 DEFORMATION MONITORING SURVEYS

Sealed proposals for the above services will be received by the Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until 2:00 p.m., April 26, 2021 at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St.,

Crafters needed for St. John’s fair

AGAWAM – St. John the Evangelist Church is excited to host its first-ever Outdoor Craft Fair, Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 833 Main Street, Agawam. Crafters are welcome to request an application by contacting Andreana Perkins, 413.786.8105, or sje.information@gmail.com. A rain date is set for May 8.

There is a \$35 non-refundable fee, and a request for one craft item to be

donated to the Raffle Tent (value of \$20).

Crafters will have access to a designated 10 x 10 outdoor space, which will include a six-foot table and chair. There are limited number of spaces with electricity that are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Interested crafters can contact Andreana Perkins at 413.786-8105, or sje.information@gmail.com.

Public Notices

Holyoke, MA 01040.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting:

Respondents shall participate in a mandatory site visit to be held at the Hadley Falls Station, 25 Gatehouse Rd., Holyoke MA. Proposals received from Respondents who have not participated in the site visit will automatically be rejected. Due to COVID-19, site visits will be scheduled individually. To schedule a site visit, contact Sarah LaRose at (413) 427-4804 or by email at slarose@hged.com

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes “Proposal for 2021 Deformation Monitoring Surveys” and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
04/02/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0555GD
In the interests of:

Luis Joandiel Garcia Cintron of Holyoke, MA
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition For Appointment Of Guardian Of A Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/22/2021 by Luisette Arroyo of Holyoke, MA

Jose A Vazquez of Holyoke, MA will be held 04/27/2021 10:40 AM Motion Located: www.zoomgov.com or dial 646-828-7666/ Meeting 10#1604949047 / Judge Sacks.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of

Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: March 24, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/02/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD21P0430PM
In the matter of:
Gloria M Cotto
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/ Minor)
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Gloria M Cotto is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Personal Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/13/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object

to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 09, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/02/2021

The Sun

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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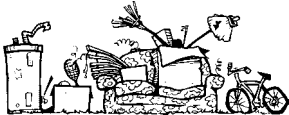
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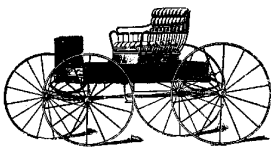
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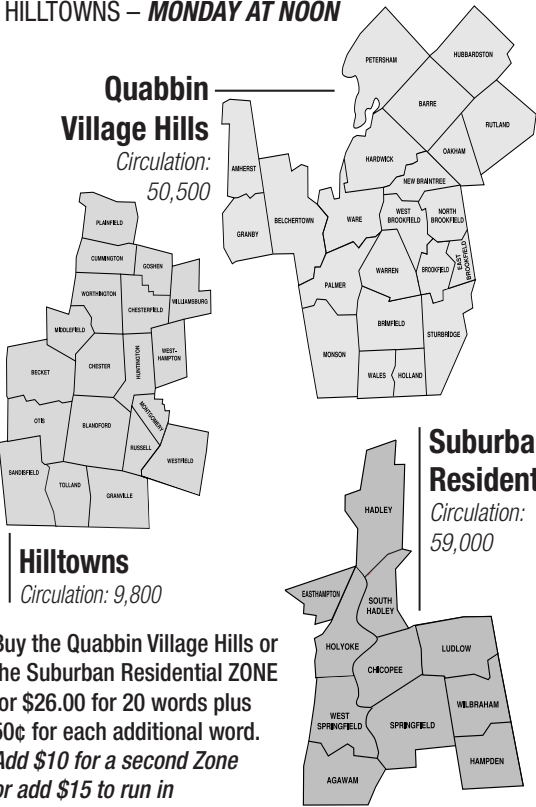
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Preparatory classes for expectant parents and families

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Medical Center's Parent Education Department offers a wealth of education and support for expectant parents and families through every stage of pregnancy, childbirth, delivery and beyond.

For safety's sake, due to the coronavirus pandemic, all face-to-face childbirth and parent classes/groups have been suspended in favor of live virtual sessions and online learning.

Among the many preparatory classes offered are:

Virtual Childbirth Education Class Bundle: A four-class series taken via WebEx from the comforts of prospective parents' own living room. Series includes stages of labor and delivery, basic comfort techniques, medications, medical interventions and Cesarean birth, basic baby care, and prenatal breastfeeding. The series is held in four, two-hour sessions and includes interaction and questions and answers with a childbirth educator throughout the class. Infant care and

breastfeeding can also be taken as stand-alone classes.

Online Multiples Childbirth Education: Using a combination of online education and the opportunity to interact with a parent educator, online multiples is geared to expectant parents in their second trimester of pregnancy who want education that is specific to having twins or triplets. The online portion of the class is taken at home at the participant's own pace. Parents will then be invited to a virtual session via WebEx to have their questions answered by a knowledgeable instructor, who is also a lactation consultant and mother of twins.

Online Childbirth Education – offered in Spanish or English: The eight-chapter program, ideal for those expectant parents who enjoy learning on their own, is an interactive, web-based class that uses videos, personal birth stories, animations, activities and games to teach all the essential information parents need to know to prepare for the birth of

their child. This class does not provide face-to-face interaction with a parent educator.

Basics-Breathing, Massage & Positions for Labor Virtual Class: A one-session class ideal for those parents who want a more in-depth preparation for the use of advanced comfort and support techniques during labor and delivery to avoid medical interventions if possible.

Virtual Keeping Baby Safe: Participants will learn how to keep baby safe with topics such as infant CPR, first aid, choking, poison prevention, baby-proofing the home and car seat safety.

Baby's Home! Now What?: This newborn class provides postpartum support for new parents and provides information on newborn behavior in the first few weeks of an infant's life. The class includes feeding cues for breast and bottle feeding, infant sleep patterns, comforting a crying infant, information about returning to work, continued support for breastfeeding moms, pumping techniques and stor-

age of breast milk.

Virtual Prenatal Yoga Class: Pregnant women will learn postures, breathing techniques and meditation to help ease pregnancy aches. The class will prepare your body for delivery and improve your chances for a smoother recovery while creating strength, focus, flexibility and awareness through a gentle practice designed especially for the pregnant woman's needs.

Virtual Postnatal Yoga Class: The virtual class provides an opportunity for moms to bond with their babies, strengthen muscles that were affected in pregnancy/labor and stretch all of motherhood's new aches and pains. Babies up to 1-year-old and crawling are welcome to surround mom during the class, which offers breathing techniques to calm the mind and bring energy to the body and strengthening the pelvic floor and abdomen.

For more information and to register for any class, visit BaystateHealth.org/Parented.

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Richard Neal visits hospital, vaccine clinic

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Congressman Richard E. Neal visited Holyoke Health Center’s (HHC) COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Dean Technical High School where Holyoke Public School staff was receiving vaccines provided through a federal initiative. The clinic had enough vaccines to give first shots to 600 members of the Holyoke Public Schools in one day.

Holyoke Health Center had been in discussion with the school administration since it was selected to be one of the first 250 health centers in the country to receive direct shipments of vaccine from a federal initiative, established through President Biden’s Community Health Center Vaccination Program. This vaccine program directly allocates COVID-19 vaccines to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-supported health centers to ensure that our nation’s underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 are equitably vaccinated.

“There was an immediate call to us from Congressman Richard Neal’s staff in Washington as the federal initiative was being developed and we have remained in contact throughout to make sure there were no last-minute problems with the shipment of 600 doses of vaccine,” said Breines. “The federal vaccine has allowed

us to focus on the school staff not just as a public health opportunity, but as a means to expedite the return to classrooms for thousands of children in our school system. Most of the children are our patients and we are aware of the difficulties the COVID pandemic has caused for the families of these children, including social, economic, and emotional distress. For the health and educational success of our young patients, we have to get them back into the classroom.”

“I am thrilled to see these federal resources in action here in Holyoke today,” said Congressman Neal. “Community health centers like Holyoke have been on the frontlines of this pandemic for over a year now and the work that they continue to do to ensure that our populations are vaccinated does not go without notice. At the health center, they can vaccinate patients from vulnerable populations and at Dean Tech, they are able to ensure our teachers are vaccinated to return to school. Part of President Biden’s 100-day plan was for a robust rollout of vaccines across our country. I am thrilled to see it in action here today.”

“I am also pleased that just this



Richard E. Neal

Thursday, HRSA announced that Holyoke Health Center will receive \$3,628,000 from the American Rescue Plan,” continued Congressman Neal. “This funding will go to support and expand COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and treatment for vulnerable populations; deliver needed preventive and primary health care services to those at higher risk for COVID-19; and expand health centers’ operational capacity during the pandemic and beyond, including modifying and improving physical infrastructure and adding mobile units.”

Lori Lewicki, Chief Pharmacy Officer at HHC has overseen the implementation of school effort while also providing vaccine clinics at the health center, senior center and an area housing agency.

“This has been an exciting way to use the resources of the pharmacy and our staff. Our programing is built around the integration of pharmacy and medical care, and this effort puts us directly on the front lines in the COVID battle,” Lewicki exclaimed.

Rosilma Romero, Assistant Clinical Director for Nursing, says to date HHC has been able to provide over 3,000 vaccines to its staff, patients, first responders,

and other persons made eligible through the state phasing plan.

Noelle Flint, Director of Nursing, is looking forward to the arrival of even more vaccines so more 1st doses can be scheduled. “Although we are all feeling exhausted by the extra workload this has caused, this is what we are here for and this is how we can best take care of our community”.

Breines noted his thanks for the support provided by Marianne Currier, Holyoke Public Schools Pupil Services Coordinator, and Cynthia Carbone, Head Nurse, as they surveyed staff to work out the scheduling details and provided space and personnel to help manage the all-day effort.

“We’ve integrated our community and professional staffs in a way that has not been done before and it has all been going like clockwork, Currier said.

“The commitment of the staff to get Holyoke fully vaccinated has been incredible”, said Ben Cartegena, President of HHC’s Board of Directors. “We don’t know how they are pulling this off, but we are so thankful that we have the resources and the ability to get the job done. Without the federal shipment, it would have been very difficult to vaccinate school personnel now that they are eligible to receive the vaccine.”

Homework House to host sixth annual adult spelling bee

HOLYOKE – It’s time to grab your dictionaries and to spell success for Holyoke children! The Sixth Annual Adult Spelling Bee to benefit Homework House will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. online over Zoom and YouTube Live. This annual event is one of the major fundraisers for Homework House which has been providing free academic tutoring and mentoring for 15 years to school age children in Holyoke.

This year, Homework House is joining with The Spelling Bee Company

from Los Angeles to create a virtual event that is a spelling bee, pledge-athon, and comedy show all rolled into one. Ten teams of enthusiastic spellers will gather on the virtual stage along with The Spelling Bee Company. The professional performers and comedians from the Spelling Bee Company will keep the spellers on their toes and the laughs coming as the evening’s emcees and Spelling Bee judges.

Each team will gather pledges in advance of the event that they can use

to ‘cheat’, ‘phone a friend’, or as a ‘life-line’ during the Bee. The more pledges they raise, the more cheats a team can buy. The winning team gets a trophy and bragging rights as the best spellers in Holyoke. There will also be prizes for the best team costume and the best team name. The evening is destined to be a smash hit!

Peoples Bank is the Bee’s Knees Sponsor of the event. Additional sponsorship opportunities and team registration are now available.

Homework House serves children, ages 6 – 12. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. During the pandemic, it continues its services virtually. Tutors, many who are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to strengthen children’s educational learning and retention.

To register for a sponsorship or to register a team, please email Suzanne Boniface at sboniface@homeworkhouse-holyoke.org or call her at 413-265-1017.

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Andrey Pavlov joins Mont Marie Rehabilitation and Health Center

HOLYOKE – Mont Marie Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center announced the recent addition of Andrey Pavlov, M.D., an experienced pulmonologist, to its medical team.

Dr. Pavlov is a board-certified physician who specializes in pulmonary disease, critical care medicine and internal medicine. He has been affiliated with multiple hospitals in the region, including Holyoke Medical Center, for more than a decade. Mont Marie’s cardiopulmonary care team offers a wide range of treatments and therapies designed to help patients achieve the most active life

possible despite any cardiopulmonary diagnoses and physical limitations.

“Dr. Pavlov will help us continue to provide high-quality care to residents patients with cardiopulmonary diseases like COPD and lung cancer,” said Lisa Rivard, Administrator of Mont Marie Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. “Our medical team is excited to have him on board.”

Dr. Pavlov received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Connecticut.

Holyoke Mall announces Easter hours

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall will be closed on Sunday, April 4 in observance of Easter, however the following venues will be open:

- 110 Grill: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. for dine-in and takeout.
- Ninety-Nine Restaurant & Pub: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. for curbside pickup only.
- Round1 Bowling & Amusement: 10 a.m. – 2 a.m.
- Sumo Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for dine-in

and takeout.

110 Grill will be open for Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Upper Level near JCPenney. Their brunch menu features Chicken n’ Waffles, 110 Frittata,

Apple Cider Donut French Toast, and more. Brunch cocktails and their full menu will also be served. Reservations are encouraged.

All visitors to Holyoke Mall are reminded to wear a mask and follow our Healthy Shopper Guidelines.